

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SAA-01
SES-02 SMS-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 SSC-01
/083 W

-----084305 231305Z /44

O P 231217Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6808
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
USLO PEKING PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6808

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PINR, AF
SUBJECT: FURTHER REMOVAL OF AFGHAN MINISTERS

1. DR. BROR REXED, VISITING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UN FUND
FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL (UNFDAC), INFORMED THE EMBASSY TODAY THAT
MINISTER OF INTERIOR MOHAMMAD ASLAM WATANJAR AND MINISTER OF
PLANNING SULTAN ALI KISHTMAND HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM OFFICE.

2. REXED SAID THAT HE LEARNED TODAY, AUGUST 23, THAT WATANJAR,
WHOM HE CALLED ON YESTERDAY, WAS REMOVED FROM OFFICE TODAY.
HE REMEMBERS HIS CONVERSATION WITH WATANJAR AS STRANGE. AT THAT
TIME, REXED AND HIS ACCOMPANYING UN PARTY RECALL THAT WATANJAR
LOOKED LIKE " A POLITICAL PRISONER, SHRUNKEN AND WITHDRAWN
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BEHIND HIS DESK. IN THE OPINION OF THE UN TEAM, SAYED DAOUD
TARUN, CHIEF OF POLICE AND GENDARMERIE, IS CLEARLY IN CHARGE
OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

3. AS THE REXED PARTY WAS WAITING TO SEE KISHTMAND AUGUST 23,
THE MINISTER WAS REMOVED FROM HIS OFFICE THROUGH ANOTHER DOOR.
THEY HAVE LEARNED THAT DR. SHAH WALI, MINISTER OF PUBLIC HELATH

(AND PROBABLY THE THIRD-RANKING LEADER OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN - PDPA), HAS ALSO TAKEN OVER CONTROL OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING.

4. THE UN PARTY ALSO HEARD THAT MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS SAYED MOHAMMAD GULABZOI HAD BEEN REMOVED, BUT WERE LESS CERTAIN ABOUT THE VERACITY OF THIS REPORT.

5. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY IN TRYING TO CONFIRM THESE REPORTS AND OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS FOR SEVERAL DAYS THAT WATANJAR WAS ON HIS WAY OUT, BUT HAD NOT HEARD THAT KISHTMAND WAS IN ANY TROUBLE. AS FOR GULABZOI, A VERY RELIABLE REPORT HAD HIM MAKING A PICNIC HELICOPTER FLIGHT TO THE AJAR VALLEY EARLIER IN AUGUST WITH CHAIRMAN NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAHI AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN. AS FORMER CHIEF OF CABINET TO THE PRIME MINISTRY, GULABZOI HAS BEEN REGARDED AS PROMINENT PARTY FIGURE.
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Message Attributes

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